

REMARKS

The title as it appears on the abstract page has been amended to conform to the title on the first page of the application.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 19 are amended above to add a tape characteristic limitation, or the like. Support for this limitation can be found in the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 8 of the present Specification. Claims 9 and 17 have been amended to place them in independent form, incorporating the limitations of their parent independent claims. Claim 18 is canceled above.

New claims 28 through 50 are added above. Support for new dependent claims 28, 29 and 34 can also be found in the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 8 of the present Specification. New dependent claims 30-33 parse the limitations of originally presented claim 18 into separate dependent claims.

New independent claims 35, 42 and 48 and their dependent claims, new claims 36 through 41, 43 through 47, 49 and 50 can find support throughout the Summary and Detailed Description of the present application. More specific support for new independent claims 35 and 42 and dependent claims 36, 38, 39, and 43-46 may be found on pages 6 and 7 of the present specification, as well as in the originally presented claims. Support for new dependent claims 37, 40, 41 and 47 maybe found in the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 8 of the present Specification. Specific support for new independent claim 48 and its dependent claims 49 and 50 may be found in the paragraph beginning on line 26 of page 6.

Following entry of the above amendments, claims 1 through 17 and 19 through 50 are pending in this application.

Whereas each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

A transmittal accompanying this Preliminary Amendment details the fees required by the claim amendments and added claims discussed above. If any additional fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 10011666-1, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

The below named attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner call him if he can be of any assistance in facilitating examination and prosecution of the present application.

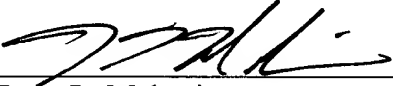
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV 256029460 US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Date of Deposit: November 6, 2003

Typed Name: John Pallivathukal

Signature: 

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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